



**DEC 16  
2025**

# BEYOND TEARS

A Collaborative Training for  
Professionals Supporting  
Grieving Youth

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**Keynote Speaker Dr. Gerald Fonville**

**Presented in  
Partnership  
with**



Roberta's House 928 E North Avenue  
[robertashouse.org/events](http://robertashouse.org/events)





*Compassionate Support for Maryland Families Navigating Infant and Child Loss*

## ABOUT HALO:

- ◆ **Free Peer support groups for families grieving the loss of a child aged 0-17**
- ◆ **Virtual Support Group 6:00-8:00 PM**
- ◆ **Monthly Every Second Monday**

A Project of



Roberta's House transforms grief into healing through trauma-informed care—addressing grief as a silent public health crisis and fostering resilience and hope for children, adults, and families through education, advocacy, peer support, and community-centered services.

Presented in partnership with the Maryland Department of Health

[www.robertashouse.org](http://www.robertashouse.org)



**Beyond the Tears: A Collaborative Training for Professionals Supporting Grieving Youth**  
**December 16, 2025 | 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM**

**Agenda**

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**10:00 AM – 10:10 AM: Morgenthaler Theater**

**Welcome**

Annette March Grier, R.N., *President Roberta's House*

**Opening remarks | Logistics**

Gregory Wm. Branch, M.D., MBA, CPE, FACP, *VP Roberta's House*

**10:10 AM – 11:10 AM: Morgenthaler Theater**

**Training Session: *Beyond Tears* – Part I**

Introduction to grief-informed professional practice  
Core concepts, models, and foundational interventions

**11:10 AM-11:20 AM: Break**

**11: 20 AM – 12:15 PM: Theater**

**Training Session: *Beyond Tears* – Part II**

Advanced approaches to grief support  
Applied strategies, case studies, and discussion

**12:15 PM – 1:15 PM: Assembly Room**

**Lunch, Networking and Tour of Roberta's House**

**1:15 PM – 2:45 PM: Morgenthaler Theater**

**Panel Discussion with Audience Participation**

*Moderator:*

Dr. Lisa M. Smith-Sherrod

*Panelists:*

Dr. Pearl L. Harmon, Ed.D. | Crystal Miles-Ruffin, LCSW-C

Jordyn Roundtree | Rev. Dr. Jamie Washington

**2:45 PM: Morgenthaler Theater**

Completion of Evaluations | Closing Remarks

Gregory Wm. Branch, M.D., MBA, CPE, FACP, *VP Roberta's House*



## Dr. Gerald Fonville, Ph.D.

Dr. Gerald Devon Fonville is a traumatologist. He is a strategic and equity-driven education leader with deep expertise in program development, trauma-informed practices, and special education compliance. He holds a Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from the University of Massachusetts Amherst and has advanced numerous initiatives supporting at-risk youth, trauma recovery, and culturally responsive education. Dr. Fonville has held consulting roles with the Baltimore County Department of Health and is currently a Research Associate at the Center for Youth Engagement, University of Massachusetts-Amherst, and has extensive experience in consulting across the public, private, and higher education sectors. An active scholar and presenter, his work focuses on mental health, educational equity, and community engagement, and he has published on trauma interventions and the wellness of Black youth.



## Dr. Pearl L. Harmon, Ed.D.

*Educational Leader | Leadership Consultant | Caregiver Coach*

Dr. Pearl Harmon is an accomplished education leader and consultant with nearly 30 years of experience serving as a teacher, principal, principal supervisor, and Director of Human Resources in one of the nation's largest school districts. Her work centers on creating compassionate, learning, and working environments that prioritize the emotional well-being and success of everyone.

As the Founder and CEO of Leading & Learning Solutions and Aging Care Navigators, Dr. Harmon helps leaders and caregivers cultivate cultures of care—whether in schools, workplaces, or homes. Drawing from her background in education and personal journey as a family caregiver, she equips individuals with strategies to lead with empathy, clarity, and confidence.

Dr. Harmon's approach integrates leadership development, social-emotional wellness, and human-centered design to help educators and organizations strengthen systems that support both staff and students—especially those navigating grief, loss, and major life transitions.



## Dr. Lisa M. Smith-Sherrod

Dr. Lisa M. Smith-Sherrod is a seasoned educator, leadership coach, and nonprofit board member with nearly 30 years of experience supporting children, families, and school communities. She currently serves as a Leadership Coach and Instructor with the National Aspiring Principals Fellowship, where she develops and supports emerging school leaders nationwide.

A lifelong educator, Dr. Smith-Sherrod began her career as a fourth-grade teacher and went on to serve as a Teacher Mentor-Trainer, Founding Principal of Colonial Christian Academy, Assistant Principal of Instruction, and Principal of Callaway Elementary School. She later held multiple district leadership roles in Baltimore City Public Schools, including Director of Student and School Operations Support, where she led teams focused on strengthening school culture, safety, and operational excellence.

Dr. Smith-Sherrod serves on the Board of Directors of Roberta's House, contributing her leadership and quality-assurance expertise to enhance healing-centered, culturally responsive bereavement services for children and families. She is also the Founder and CEO of EmpowerED Moves Consulting Group, LLC, supporting school and district leaders with executive coaching and strategic planning.

She holds a B.S. in Elementary and Special Education, an M.Ed. in Administration and Supervision, and a Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership. Guided by the core values of Competence, Character, and Compassion, Dr. Smith-Sherrod remains deeply committed to creating spaces where young people and the adults that lead them are seen, supported, and able to thrive.



## Crystal Miles-Ruffin, LCSW-C

Crystal Miles-Ruffin, LCSW-C is in her 20th year as a School Social Worker with Baltimore City Public Schools. She received dual MSW/MPH degrees from Tulane University and graduated from the University of California, Santa Barbara with a BA Degree. Crystal works with adults in her private therapy practice. Crystal's prior experience includes Treatment Foster Care, Research Assistant at the LSU Stanley S. Scott Cancer, and

Social Work Supervisor for a Healthy Start Program. Crystal enjoys spending time with family, traveling and reading.



## Rev. Dr. Jamie Washington

Rev. Dr. Jamie Washington, Pronouns (He/Him/His) is the middle child and only son of Annette and James Washington and Grandson of Elizabeth and Thurman Williams. He serves as the President & Founder of the Washington Consulting Group (WCG). WCG was named by the Economist as one of the Top 10 Global Diversity Consultants in the world. Dr. Washington has served as an educator, administrator, and consultant for over 41 years. He served as an invited instructor in the Harvard Graduate School of Education and the Lancaster Theological Seminary. He is the President and Co-Founder of the Social Justice Training Institute and a Past President of the American College Personnel Association (ACPA).

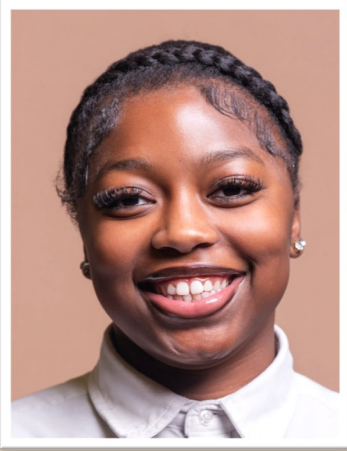
Dr. Washington earned his B.S. degree from Slippery Rock State College; a double Master of Science degrees from Indiana University/Bloomington; a Ph.D. is in College Student Development, from the University of Maryland College Park; and a Master of Divinity from Howard University School of Divinity with concentration in Christian ethics and pastoral Care.

He has been honored as a distinguished alumnus from both Indiana University, Bloomington and the University of Maryland, College Park. Jamie received an honorary Doctor of Business from Shepherd University in May 2019, and he was awarded an honorary Doctor of Laws from Wheaton College of Massachusetts in May of 2021. He is a member of Omicron Delta Kappa, Golden Key, Alpha Phi Omega, Phi Delta Kappa and a life member of Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity Inc. He was honor by the National Black Justice Coalition as a 2025 James Baldwin Legacy Award.

Rev. Dr. Washington also serves as the Pastor of Unity Fellowship Church of Baltimore and is an Elder in the Unity Fellowship Church Movement. He is the grandfather of 8 and great uncle to 9. His hobbies include, his grandchildren, cooking, music, laundry and is binge watching TV programs. He lives by the words of one of his favorite song, sung by the late Mahalia Jackson at the funeral or the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

*If I can help somebody, as I pass along: If I can cheer somebody, with a word or song: If I can show somebody, that he, she or they, are traveling wrong, then my living shall not be in vain*

Please remember to complete the evaluation form before departing, as your feedback is essential to the continued improvement of our program. In addition, to receive CEUs, you must complete the final questionnaire. This may be done by scanning the QR code provided or by completing one of the paper forms available.



## Jordyn Roundtree

Jordyn Roundtree is a dedicated and inspiring youth leader who proudly serves as a Youth Panelist for Roberta's House. At just 17 years old, Jordyn is a shining example of academic excellence and resilience. A senior at the Baltimore Leadership School for Young Women (BLSYW), she has a GPA of 3.6/4.0 and received over \$200,000 in scholarships and offers from 10 colleges and universities, a testament to her hard work, determination, and leadership.

At BLSYW, Jordyn serves as Vice President of the Student Government Association and is an active member of the Big Sister Little Sister Club, along with numerous other school programs that highlight her commitment to sisterhood, service, and community.

Jordyn's journey with Roberta's House began after the passing of her grandmother, a challenging period that brought behavioral struggles both at home and in school. Her introduction to the Roberta's House school-based program marked a powerful turning point. With guidance, support, and her own courage, Jordyn experienced significant improvements in her behavior, outlook, and academic performance—growth that continues to fuel her success today.

She has since participated in several Roberta's House programs, including *Changing the Game*, *Camp Erin*, *Camp Phoenix*, and the *Peer Ambassador Program*. Beyond the organization, Jordyn has actively contributed to her community through involvement in events such as Back-to-School Night at BLSYW, the Maryland Department of Juvenile Justice Resource Fair, the Heal City Baltimore panel on the impact of homicide-related deaths on youth, and multiple Social Justice Projects.

In addition to her leadership and community work, Jordyn loves to read and enjoys playing basketball. She plans to major in nursing and minor in writing, blending her passion for caring for others with her love for storytelling.

Empowered, ambitious, and compassionate, Jordyn Roundtree stands as a remarkable example of the potential within today's youth. Her journey of growth, leadership, and academic achievement continues to inspire her peers and uplift her community.

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# Candlelight Celebration



## LIGHT A CANDLE & MAKE A DEDICATION



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